

Committee on Finance, Revenue, and Bonding
S.B. 29 AN ACT CONCERNING THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT
March 3, 2022
Submitted by
Robert M. Goodrich

Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon and members of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee my name is Robert Goodrich, I am a father, an educator, and a leader of an advocacy organization in Waterbury that fights for racial justice in our schools.

As as state we have the largest educational achievement gaps that cut across race and economic status in the country and we also know we have the super-wealthy as well as the very poor that live within earshot of each other. We know that if you are poor or even middle-class here in Connecticut that at some point you will have to make gut-wrenching decisions to buy fresh food or pay rent or fix the broken down car or buy diapers for our babies. These decisions are often made on a daily basis and happen more frequently in Black and Brown communities than any of us would like to recognize.

These very lived experiences are the reasons we support a permanent expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). While we believe in strategies that more radically address the regressive tax system here in Connecticut and would lead to a more equitable distribution of resources we understand incremental and pragmatic approaches like the proposed expansion will have an immediate and potentially life altering impact the moment its codified.

We also know that families feeling of wholeness and safety are directly impacted by their financial stability. The expanded EITC will provide additional security from surprise expenses from a public health crises, a death of a loved one, or even health related issues that prevent a caregiver from working for an extended period of time. EITC's have also shown to positively impact educational attainment and performance for students whose families receive those credits.¹ Supporting and passing this legislation is an anti-poverty measure that will boost thousands of families and individuals out of poverty. The expansion of the EITC is a moral imperative. We urge this committee to support the expansion of the EITC from 30.5% to 41.5%.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Goodrich
Executive Director
RACCE
rgoodrich@racce.net
(203) 597-7456

¹ Chuck Marr, Chye-Ching Huang, Arloc Sherman, and Brandon Debot, "EITC and Child Tax Credit Promote Work, Reduce Poverty, and Support Children's Development, Research Finds," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities blog, Oct. 1, 2015, available at <https://www.cbpp.org/research/federal-tax/eitc-and-child-tax-credit-promote-work-reduce-poverty-and-support-childrens>